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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/781,963	02/14/2001	Takashi Ide	1344.1057/JDH	9740

21171 7590 12/16/2003

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EXAMINER

HAVAN, THU THAO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2672

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/781,963

Applicant(s)

IDE, TAKASHI

Examiner

Thu-Thao Havan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 August 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Claims **1-13** are pending in the present application.
2. Applicant's arguments filed August 13, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. As addressed below, Adler teaches the claimed limitations.

Adler teaches operating means for inputting two-dimensional data and for outputting one piece of two-dimensional data obtained after an entirety of rows or columns of input two-dimensional data is subjected selectively to one of a plurality of predefined operations (col. 18, line 64 to col. 34; col. 24, line 32 to col. 25, line 44). In other words, Adler discloses a worksheet menu is provided in the pull-down menu field, which allows the user to manipulate the columns and rows that are displayed at any given time on the visual presentation. For example, the user may choose to display a particular row or column, even though the user also desires to scroll the cell field to previously undisplayed areas of rows and columns. Likewise, the user may decide not to display a particular row or column even though it falls within the area of rows and columns currently displayed in the cell field. Thus, Adler has the flexibility to manipulate one cell or numerous cells or an entire row(s) or an entire column(s).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

4. Claims **1-13** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable by Adler et al. (US patent no. 6,138,130).

Re claim **1**, Adler discloses a two-dimensional data processing comprising operating means for inputting two-dimensional data, and for outputting one piece of two-dimensional data obtained after an entirety of rows or columns of input two-dimensional data is subjected selectively to one of a plurality of predefined operations (col. 1, line 45 to col. 2, line 2); designating means for designating an operation type which specifies operation by operating means, and an input target and an output target of operation (col. 3, line 60 to col. 6, line 25); recording means for recording at least one set of operation contents in the designated order of operation contents, with the operation type, input target and output target designated through designating means being one set operation contents (col. 6, lines 12-25); and activating means for sequentially reading out operation contents recorded by recording means, and for selectively activating one operation for operating means based on the operation type, input target and output target of operation contents (col. 6, line 12 to col. 10, line 67). In other words, Adler teaches an electronic spreadsheet in two-dimensional format wherein the user has the flexibility to customize the spreadsheet. The data associated with a cell (row and column) is called an object. The objects can be manipulated in that the user can input and manipulate data. The user is able to program new types of objects into the interpreter, define the operations that can be performed on these objects and then

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immediately utilize these objects in the context of the electronic spreadsheet. The electronic spreadsheet allows the user to perform functions, to create new objects, and to alter the basic operations permissible on those objects. In that the computer processing associates each object and each formula with each cell and correspondingly evaluates each formula and assigns to the operator(s) in each formula plurality of operative expressions selected in accordance with the object type of the changes and re-associating the result of each formula with each cell containing each formula operating on the at least one object whose value has changed. In addition, the computer processing stores each objects and each formula associated with each cell in a storage device (i.e. recording means).

Re claims **2, 6, and 10**, Adler teaches recording means operation contents as two-dimensional data (col. 2, lines 3-20; col. 6, line 12 to col. 10, line 67). Alder teaches recording means for the electronic spreadsheet is two-dimensional.

Re claims **3, 7, and 11**, Adler teaches designating the input target and the output target of the specified operation at an execution time of the specified operation and selectively activating the specified operation based on the input target and the output target designated, when a specific identifier is included in operation contents recorded by recording (col. 5, line 34 to col. 6, line 42). In other words, Adler teaches the computer-based system, wherein the user identifies a user-selected cell through the input means and enters at least one character into the text edit field through the input means and a memory storage unit. Furthermore, the computer-based system can provide unique benefits by functionally positioning the scripting language behind the

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spreadsheet. Hence the user may not only define objects but may also alter the basic operations permitted by the spreadsheet on those objects.

Re claims **4, 8, and 12**, Adler discloses the input target and the output target of operation by operating means are specified by another piece of two-dimensional data (col. 5, lines 1-51). The computer-based system of Adler is linked through a computer network that permits the computer systems to exchange data (i.e. means are specified by another piece of two-dimensional data).

Re claims **5 and 9**, the limitation of claims 5 and 9 are identical to claim 1 above. Therefore, claims 5 and 9 are treated with respect to grounds as set forth for claim 1 above.

Re claim **13**, Adler discloses a two-dimensional data processing method comprising inputting two-dimensional data, and outputting one piece of two-dimensional data obtained after an entirety of rows or columns of input two-dimensional data is subjected to one of a plurality of predefined operations (col. 24, line 32 to col. 25, line 44). In other words, Adler teaches the matrix including columns and rows being manipulated. Numerous cells are manipulated for a particular calculation thus will change the information in the necessary rows or columns.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Inquiries

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thu-Thao Havan whose telephone number is (703) 308-7062. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi can be reached on (703) 305-4713.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Thu-Thao Havan
December 10, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Razavi', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MICHAEL RAZAVI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600